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00862.003138.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
MASAHIKO MURATA, et al.)	Examiner: M. Nguyen
Application No.: 09/443,115)	Group Art Unit: 2622
Filed: November 18, 1999)	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING)	
APPARATUS AND METHOD)	
AND COMPUTER PROGRAM)	
PRODUCT)	May 6, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

JP 9-251362
JP 10-305623

The above documents were cited in a Japanese Office Action, dated February 7, 2003, in corresponding Japanese Application No. 10-328441. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is enclosed.

In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that JP 9-251362 and JP 10-305623 were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

English-language abstracts for the Japanese documents cited in the Japanese Office Action are also enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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